

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 5-7, 12-14, and 18-20 were previously withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-4, 8-11 and 15-17 are rejected. At the Office Action's request, claims 1, 8, and 15 are amended to clarify aspects of the present invention. No new matter is added.

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR § 1.83(a). Claims 1-4, 8-11, and 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 1, 3-4, 8, and 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamaguchi et al., hereinafter "Yamaguchi", U.S. Patent No. 5,243,482. Claims 1-2, 8-9, and 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(c) as being anticipated by Subrahmanyam et al., hereinafter "Subrahmanyam", U.S. Patent No. 7,006,330. Claims 15 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamaguchi.

With regard to the objections to the Drawings, Applicants submit drawing figures are submitted "where necessary for the understanding of the subject matter to be patented." *See* 35 U.S.C. § 113, *also* 37 C.F.R. § 1.81(a). Applicants submit the term "controller" as described in paragraph [0003] of the specification and as applied to claimed embodiments of the present application (*e.g.*, claim 8) would be easily understood by one of ordinary skill in the art. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Regarding the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph rejections, Applicants submit claims 1, 8, and 15 overcome these objections. In particular, claims 1, 8, and 15 are amended to provide the clarification the Office Action requests. *See* Office Action dated 4/24/2007, paragraph 4. Support may be found at least at paragraphs [0016], [0017], and [0018] of the specification.

Withdrawal of all 35 U.S.C. §112 rejections is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit the cited references fail to teach or suggest at least “[a] suspension assembly, comprising ... a slider fixture formed on the suspension to couple with portions of at least two surfaces of the slider other than a surface facing the data storage medium and other than a surface having a set of connecting pads” (*e.g.*, as described in claim 1).

The Office Action asserts Yamaguchi discloses the relevant limitations, citing Figures 3 and 5 generally. *See* Office Action dated 4/24/2007, paragraph 6. Applicants disagree.

Figure 3 describes, among other things, a slider embodiment 1 comprising finger portions 52, central tongue portion 53, load projection 54 and stepped portion 57. It does not describe at least a slider fixture formed on the suspension to couple with portions of at least two surfaces of the slider other than a surface facing the data storage medium and other than a surface having a set of connecting pads.

Figure 5 describes another view of a slider embodiment wherein the finger portion 52 is connected to step member 55 and coupling member 56. None of these elements describe at least the relevant limitations discussed above at all. Applicants submit the Yamaguchi reference, including cited Figures 3 and 5, fails to describe at least these relevant limitations.

Applicants submit the Subrahmanyam reference fails to describe the relevant limitations as well. The Office Action asserts Subrahmanyam describes the relevant limitations, citing element 64 and Figure 7 generally. *See* Office Action dated 4/24/2007, paragraph 7.

Element 64 is described in Subrahmanyam as a “gimbal”. *See* column 5, lines 59, 64 (among others). Applicants submit it would be easily understood by one of ordinary skill in the

art that a gimbal as described in Subrahmanyam is not the same as a “slider fixture” as described in claimed embodiments of the present application.

Figure 7 is a view of a head gimbal assembly illustrating the electrical connections of the embodiment. *See* Brief Description, column 4, lines 12-15. It describes, among other things, a slider 44, dielectric layer 100, ground conductive pads 98 and 70, and leading end 84, but does not describe at least a slider fixture formed on the suspension to couple with portions of at least two surfaces of the slider other than a surface facing the data storage medium and other than a surface having a set of connecting pads (*e.g.*, as described in claim 1). Applicants submit the Subrahmanyam reference, including cited Figure 7, fails to describe at least these relevant limitations of claim 1.

Moreover, claim 8 is amended to bring out further aspects of the claimed embodiment of the present application. Claim 8 describes, among other things, a magnetic disk drive comprising a slider fixture having at least one of non-uniform height and non-continuous length.

Applicants submit the cited references fail to teach or suggest the limitations for at least the reasons described above. In order to support a proper rejection of claim 8, the cited references must teach or describe at least these limitations. As they do not, the current rejection of claim 8 is lacking and should be withdrawn.

Therefore, since the cited references fail to teach or suggest each and every limitation of claim 1 and claim 8, the current §102 rejections are lacking and should be withdrawn. Applicants submit independent claims 1, 8, and 15 are allowable for at least the reasons described above. Claims 2-4, 9-11, and 16-17 are allowable for depending from allowable base claims.

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Advisory Action of October 2, 2007

The Applicants respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (408) 975-7950 to discuss any matter concerning this application.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or §1.17 to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

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